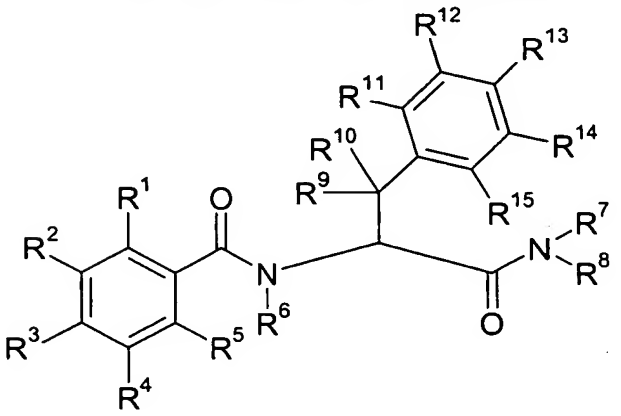
We claim:

1. A benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamide of the formula I



I,

in which the variables are as defined below:

R^1 is halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, nitro, hydroxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylthio or phenyl;

R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 are hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6-alkylamino, di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)amino, C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl;

R^6, R^7 are hydrogen, hydroxyl or C_1-C_6-alkoxy;

R^8 is C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_4-cyanoalkyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkyl;

R^9 is OR^{16}, SR^{17} or $NR^{18}R^{19}$;

R^{10} is hydrogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^{11}, R^{12} are hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro, hydroxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, tri(C_1-C_6-alkyl)silyloxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, (hydroxycarbonyl)-C_1-C_6-alkyl, (C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl)-C_1-C_6-alkyl, (hydroxycarbonyl)-C_2-C_6-alkenyl, (C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl)-C_2-C_6-alkenyl, (hydroxycarbonyl)-C_1-C_4-alkoxy, (C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl)-C_1-C_4-alkoxy, (C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl)oxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, (C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonyl)oxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkyl-O-

$C(O)$-[C_1-C_4-alkyl-O]$_3$-C_1-C_4-alkyl, carbamoyloxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, (C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyl)oxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, [di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)aminocarbonyl]oxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, [(C_1-C_4-haloalkylsulfonyl)aminocarbonyl]oxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, benzyloxy, where the phenyl ring may be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals from the group consisting of halogen and C_1-C_4-alkyl, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, (C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonyl)-amino, C_1-C_4-(haloalkylsulfonyl)amino, (C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl)amino, carbamoylamino, (C_1-C_4-alkylamino)carbonylamino, [di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino]carbonylamino, [(C_1-C_4-haloalkylsulfonyl)aminocarbonyl]-amino, phenyl or heterocyclyl, where the phenyl and the heterocyclyl radical of the two last-mentioned substituents may carry 1 to 3 radicals from the following group: halogen, nitro, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl and C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl;

R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15} are hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio or benzyloxy;

R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} are hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, tri(C_1-C_6-alkyl)silyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, C_3-C_6-haloalkenyl, C_3-C_6-haloalkynyl, formyl, C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkylcarbonyl, C_2-C_6-alkenylcarbonyl, C_2-C_6-alkynylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyloxycarbonyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6-alkylaminocarbonyl, C_3-C_6-alkenylaminocarbonyl, C_3-C_6-alkynylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonylaminocarbonyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, N-(C_3-C_6-alkenyl)-N-(C_1-C_6-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, N-(C_3-C_6-alkynyl)-N-(C_1-C_6-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, N-(C_1-C_6-alkoxy)-N-(C_1-C_6-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, N-(C_3-C_6-alkenyl)-N-(C_1-C_6-alkoxy)aminocarbonyl, N-(C_3-C_6-alkynyl)-N-(C_1-C_6-alkoxy)aminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6-alkyl)aminothiocarbonyl, C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkoxyimino-C_1-C_6-alkyl, N-(C_1-C_6-alkylamino)imino-C_1-C_6-alkyl or N-(di-C_1-C_6-alkylamino)imino-C_1-C_6-alkyl,

where the alkyl, cycloalkyl and alkoxy radicals mentioned may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry 1 to 3 of the following groups: cyano, hydroxyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl,

hydroxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-aminocarbonyl or C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyloxy;

phenyl, phenyl-C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl- C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenoxycarbonyl, phenylaminocarbonyl, phenylsulfonylaminocarbonyl, N-(C_1-C_6-alkyl)-N-(phenyl)aminocarbonyl, phenyl-C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyl-C_1-C_6-alkyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl-C_1-C_6-alkyl, heterocyclyloxycarbonyl, heterocyclylaminocarbonyl, heterocyclylsulfonylaminocarbonyl, N-(C_1-C_6-alkyl)-N-(heterocyclyl)aminocarbonyl or heterocyclyl-C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl,

where the phenyl and the heterocyclyl radical of the 17 last-mentioned substituents may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry 1 to 3 of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy SO_2R^{20}; -C(O)-[C_1-C_4-alkyl-O]$_3$-C_1-C_4-alkyl; or -C(O)-O-C_1-C_4-alkyl-O-phenyl, where the phenyl radical may optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals from the group consisting of halogen and C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{19} is hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl, C_3-C_6-haloalkenyl, C_3-C_6-haloalkynyl,

where the alkyl and cycloalkyl radicals mentioned may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry 1 to 3 of the following groups: cyano, hydroxyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)aminocarbonyl or C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyloxy; or

phenyl, phenyl-C_1-C_6-alkyl, heterocyclyl or heterocyclyl-C_1-C_6-alkyl,

where the phenyl and the heterocyclyl radical of the 4 last-mentioned substituents may be partially or fully halogenated, and/or may carry 1 to 3 of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy;

R^{20} is C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl or phenyl,

where the phenyl radical may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry 1 to 3 of the following groups: C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl or C_1-C_6-alkoxy;

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

2. The benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamide of the formula I according to claim 1, where R^1 is halogen or C_1-C_6-haloalkyl.

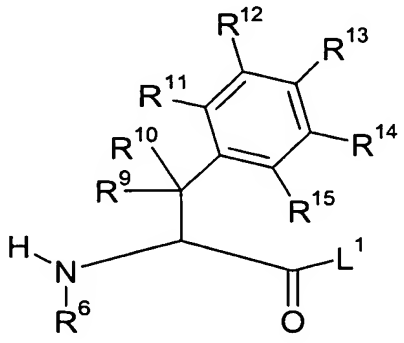
3. The benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamide of the formula according to claim 1 or 2, where R^2 and R^3 independently of one another are hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6-haloalkyl.

4. The benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamide of the formula I according to any of claims 1 to 3, where R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^{10}, R^{13}, R^{14} and R^{15} are hydrogen.

5. The benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamide of the formula I according to any of claims 1 to 4, where R^9 is OR^{16}.

6. A process for preparing benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamides of the formula I according to claim 1, which comprises

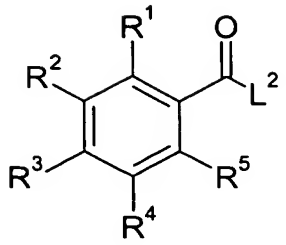
reacting phenylalanines of the formula V



V,

where R^6 and R^9 to R^{15} are as defined in claim 1 and L^1 is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving group,

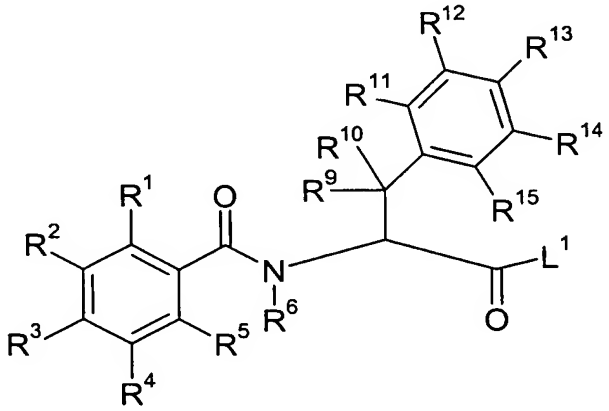
with benzoic acids or benzoic acid derivatives of the formula IV



IV,

where R^1 to R^5 are as defined in claim 1 and L^2 is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving group

to give the corresponding benzoyl derivatives of the formula III



III,

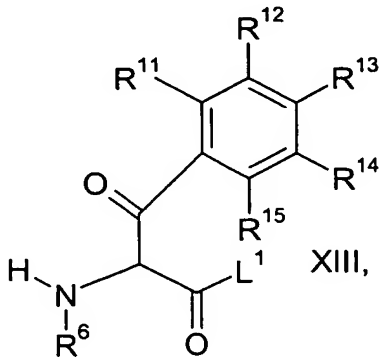
where R^1 to R^6 and R^9 to R^{15} are as defined in claim 1 and L^1 is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving group

and then reacting the resulting benzoyl derivatives of the formula III with an amine of the formula II

$$HNR^7R^8 \quad II,$$

where R^7 and R^8 are as defined in claim 1.

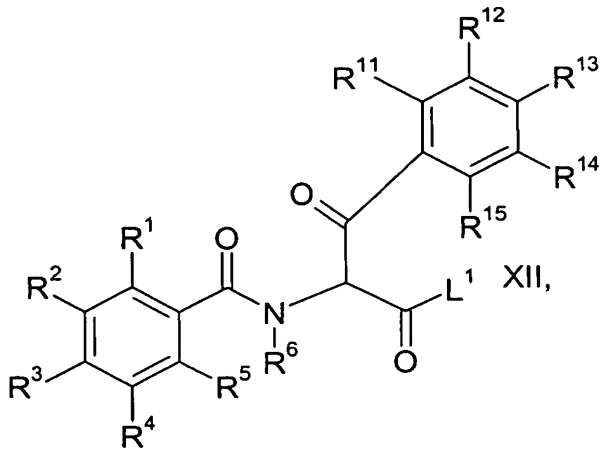
7. The process for preparing benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamides of the formula I according to claim 6, where R^9 is hydroxyl and R^{10} is hydrogen, which comprises converting benzoyl derivatives of the formula III where R^9 is hydroxyl and R^{10} is hydrogen by acylation of keto compounds of the formula XIII



XIII,

where R^6 and R^{11} to R^{15} are as defined in claim 1 and L^1 is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving group

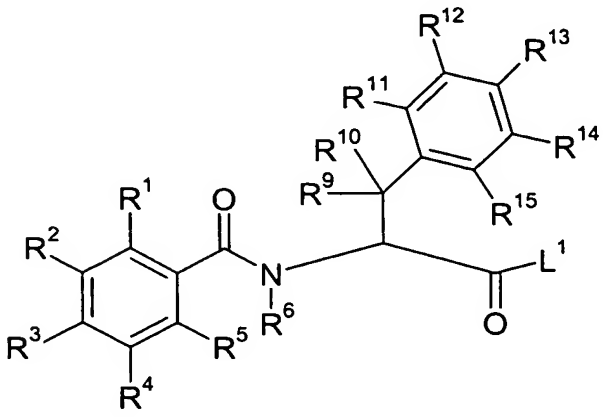
with benzoic acids/benzoic acid derivatives of the formula IV into N-acyl keto compounds of the formula XII



XII,

where R^1 to R^6 and R^{11} to R^{15} are as defined in claim 1 and L^1 is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving group, followed by reduction of the keto group.

8. A benzoyl derivative of the formula III



III,

where R^1 to R^6 and R^9 to R^{15} are as defined in claim 1 and L^1 is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving group.

9. A composition, comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamide of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to any of claims 1 to 5 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.

10. A process for preparing compositions according to claim 8, which comprises mixing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamide of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to any of claims 1 to 5 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.

11. A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamide of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to any of claims 1 to 5 to act on plants, their habitat and/or on seed.

12. The use of a benzoyl-substituted phenylalanineamide of the formula I according to any of claims 1 to 5 or an agriculturally useful salt thereof as a herbicide.